



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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MEMORANDUM

To: Regional EMS Councils
Operational Medical Directors (OMD)
Physician Course Directors (PCD)
Virginia EMS agencies

From: Michael D. Berg, AS, NREMT-P
Manager, Regulation and Compliance Manager

Subject: EMS Physician Endorsements as
Operational Medical Director (OMD) and/or
Physician Course Coordinator (PCD)

Date: July 16, 2008

In January of 2003, the *Virginia Emergency Medical Services Regulations* 12 VAC 5-31 updated and established additional requirements a physician must meet in order to serve as an EMS Physician in the Commonwealth. Specifically, the completion every five (5) years of an EMS Medical Direction program approved by the Office of EMS was added. In addition, these *EMS Regulations* established a process EMS Physicians must follow in order to become endorsed by the state as an EMS agency OMD or Physician Course Director (PCD) for an EMS educational program. These requirements were recommended by the state Medical Direction Committee and endorsed by the state EMS Advisory Board in order to ensure appropriate medical direction and oversight of Virginia's EMS agencies and educational programs. All physicians serving as an OMD and/or PCD's at the time the new *EMS Regulations* went into effect were "grandfathered" and received a conditional endorsement until August 31, 2008.

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2008

Page 2

To date, many of the physicians who were “grandfathered” and received conditional endorsement to serve as an OMD/PCD have not completed the process outlined in 12 VAC5-31-1860 to renew their endorsement. In order to avoid confusion and ensure the continued provision of EMS in the Commonwealth, the Office of EMS has granted these physicians a one (1) year variance until August 31, 2009 to allow additional time to complete the requirements for re-endorsement.

The Office of EMS along with the Virginia College of Emergency Physicians (VACEP) will continue its commitment to schedule EMS Medical Director workshops to meet the EMS Physician training requirements of the *EMS Regulations*. At the moment, there are two (2) EMS Medical Director training programs scheduled prior to the end of this year: August 6, 2008 (Strasburg), and November 13, 2008 (Norfolk). Individuals may register on line to attend these programs through the VACEP Web site at <http://www.vacep.org>. Additional courses will be announced through the Office of EMS and VACEP Web sites.

The option to complete the required EMS Medical Director training program on-line is being developed. The Office of EMS and VACEP are working to implement this option no later than January 1, 2009.

There is no fee charged for a physician to participate in this required training program. Category 1 CME credits are approved for the scheduled face-to-face meetings; application for CME credits is being made for the on-line program.

EMS Physician records at the Office of EMS will be updated to reflect these new expiration dates. The Office of EMS is not re-issuing “endorsement” cards to reflect these new expiration dates. This memorandum is being mailed to all affected OMD/PCD’s, as well licensed EMS agencies and approved EMS training programs in Virginia.

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2008

Page 3

If you have questions or require further information, please contact the Regulation and Compliance Division at the Office of EMS at 1-800-523-6019 or visit our Web site at <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/oems>.